A Help to a National Reformation.

An Abſtract of the Penal-Laws againſt

Prophaneneſs and Vice.

A Form of the Warrants iſſued out upon Offenders againſt the ſaid Laws.

A Blank Regiſter of ſuch Warrants.

Prudential Rules for the Giving of Informations to the Magiſtrates in theſe Caſes.

And a Specimen of an Agreement for the Forming of a Society for *Reformation of Manners* in any City, Town, or larger Village of the Kingdom.

To which are added

His Majeſty's Proclamations for Preventing and Puniſhing *Immorality* and *Prophaneneſs*; and the late Act of Parliament againſt *Prophane Curſing* and *Swearing*; which are to be Read *Four* times a Year by *all Miniſters* in their reſpective Churches and Chappels throughout the Kingdom, *&c.*

Printed for the Eaſe of Magiſtrates and Miniſters, and the Direction and Encouragement of private Perſons, who, in any part of the Kingdom, are ingaged in the Glorious Work of *Reformation*, or are Religiouſly diſpoſed to contribute their Endeavours for the Promoting of it.

LONDON,

Printed for *D. Brown*, without *Temple-Bar*; *B. Aylmer*, in *Cornhill*; *T. Parkhurſt*, in *Cheapſide*; *J. Robinſon*, and *R. Sympſon*, in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard; *T. Goodwin*, and *W. Rogers*, in *Fleet-Street*; *J. Walthoe*, in the *Temple*; *Iſ. Harriſon*, at *Lincolns-Inn*; *S. Heyrick*, at *Grays-Inn-Gate* in *Holbourn*; *J. Fox*, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; and *J. Downing*, in *Bartholomew-Cloſe* near *Weſt-Smithfield*, 1700.

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Printed for the Ease of Magistrates and Ministers, and the Direction and Encouragement of private Persons, who, in any part of the Kingdom, are ingaged in the Glorious Work of *Reformation*, or are Religiously disposed to contribute their Endeavours for the Promoting of it.

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Price Stich'd Four-Pence, Bound Six-Pence.

To the READER.

AS we have unqueſtionable Authority from our Religion, our Laws, and our Government, for the applying our ſelves to the Promoting of a *National Reformation*, by the Suppreſſing of Prophaneneſs and Debauchery; and have moreover the Encouragement of an Approbation of the *Methods* by which the *Reformation of Manners* hath been carried on for ſeveral Years paſt with great Succeſs in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, by a conſiderable Number of the *Lords Spiritual and Temporal* and of the *Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms*; ſo there is publiſhed in theſe Papers ſuch Directions for all Perſons to give their Aſſiſtance in this Pious and Noble Undertaking, that 'tis to be hoped that Men will not now eaſily find any juſt Excuſes, under theſe Encouragements and Advantages, for their declining to aſſiſt in it one way or other, according to their Opportunities and Abilities, who have either a Love to God, or Charity to Man, any due Regard to their Duty, or to the Welfare of their Country or Poſterity.

To the READER.

AS we have unquestionable Authority from our Religion, our Laws, and our Government, for the applying our selves to the Promoting of a *National Reformation*, by the Suppressing of Prophaneness and Debauchery; and have moreover the Encouragement of an Approbation of the *Methods* by which the *Reformation of Manners* hath been carried on for several Years past with great Success in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, by a considerable Number of the *Lords Spiritual and Temporal* and of the *Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms*; so there is published in these Papers such Directions for all Persons to give their Assistance in this Pious and Noble Undertaking, that 'tis to be hoped that Men will not now easily find any just Excuses, under these Encouragements and Advantages, for their declining to assist in it one way or other, according to their Opportunities and Abilities, who have either a Love to God, or Charity to Man, any due Regard to their Duty, or to the Welfare of their Country or Posterity.

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION, For Preventing and Puniſhing Immorality and Prophaneneſs.

WILLIAM R.

Whereas We cannot but be deeply Senſible of the great Goodneſs and Mercy of Almighty God, in putting an End to a Long, Bloody and Expenſive War, by the Concluſion of an Honourable Peace; ſo We are not leſs touched with a Reſentment, that notwithſtanding this and many other great Bleſſings and Deliverances, Impiety, Prophaneneſs and Immorality do ſtill abound in this Our Kingdom: And whereas nothing can prove a greater Diſhonour to a well-ordered Government, where the Chriſtian Faith is Profeſſed, nor is likelier to provoke God to withdraw his Mercy and Bleſſings from Us, and inſtead thereof, to inflict heavy and ſevere Judgments upon this Kingdom, than the open and avowed Practice of Vice, Immorality and Prophaneneſs, which amongſt many Men has too much prevailed in this Our Kingdom of late Years, to the high Diſpleaſure of Almighty God,

the great Scandal of Christianity, and the ill and fatal Example of the rest of Our Loving Subjects, who have been Soberly Educated, and whose Inclinations would lead them to the Exercise of Piety and Virtue, did they not daily find such frequent and repeated Instances of Dissolute Living, Prophaneness and Impiety, which has in a great Measure been occasioned by the Neglect of the Magistrates not putting in Execution those good Laws which have been made for Suppressing and Punishing thereof, and by the ill Example of many in Authority, to the great Dishonour of God, and Reproach of our Religion: Wherefore, and for that We cannot expect Increase or Continuance of the Blessings We and Our Subjects Enjoy, without Providing Remedies to prevent the like evils for the future, We think Our Selves bound, by the Duty We owe to God, and the Care We have of the People committed to Our Charge, to proceed in taking effectual Course, that Religion, Piety and Good Manners may, according to Our hearty Desire, Flourish and Increase under Our Administration and Government; and being thereunto moved by the Pious Address of the Commons in Parliament Assembled, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Immorality and Prophaneness in all Persons from the highest to the lowest Degree within this Our Realm, and particularly in such who are Imployed near Our Royal Person; and that, for the greater Incouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Men of Piety and Virtue by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do expect that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will to their utmost contribute to the Discountenancing Men of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being reduced to Shame and Contempt, may be enforced the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices,

ces, that the Displeasure of Good Men towards them may supply what the Laws (it may be) cannot wholly Prevent. And for the more Effectual Reforming these Men, who are a Discredit to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and other Our Subjects, whom it may Concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Prophane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Prophanation of the Lord's Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our Highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceedings herein, We do hereby Direct and Command Our Judges of Assizes and Justices of Peace to give strict Charges, at the respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the Kinds aforesaid; and also of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution; and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter Sessions of the Peace cause this Our Proclamation to be publickly Read in Open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And We do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditories to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be Prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners or others, who are Imployed in Our Ser-

vice, either by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to Avoid all Prophaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by the Piety and Virtue of their own Lives and Conversations they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Authority, and likewise to take Care and Inspect the Behaviour and Manners of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid. And whereas several Wicked and Prophane Persons have presumed to Print and Publish several Pernicious Books and Pamphlets, which contain in them Impious Doctrines against the Holy Trinity, and other Fundamental Articles of Our Faith, tending to the Subversion of the Christian Religion, therefore for the Punishing the Authors and Publishers thereof, and for the Preventing such Impious Books and Pamphlets being Published or Printed for the future, We do hereby strictly Charge and Prohibit all Persons that they do not presume to Write, Print or Publish any such Pernicious Books or Pamphlets, under the Pain of Incurring Our High Displeasure, and of being Punished according to the utmost Severity of the Law. And We do hereby strictly Charge and Require all Our Loving Subjects to Discover and Apprehend such Person and Persons whom they shall know to be the Authors or Publishers of any such Books or Pamphlets, and to bring them before some Justice of Peace or Chief Magistrate, in order that they may be Proceeded against according to Law.

Given at Our Court at *Kensington* the Four and twentieth Day of *February*, 1697. In the Tenth Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

By

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION, For Preventing and Puniſhing Immorality and Prophaneneſs.

WILLIAM R.

Whereas nothing can prove a greater Diſhonour to a Well-Ordered Government, where the Chriſtian Faith is Profeſſed, nor is likelier to provoke God to withdraw his Mercy and Bleſſings from Us, and inſtead thereof to Inflict Heavy and Severe Judgments upon this Kingdom, than the open and avowed Practice of Vice, Immorality and Prophaneneſs, which amongſt many Men has too much Prevailed in this Our Kingdom of late Years, to the high Diſpleaſure of Almighty God, the great Scandal of Chriſtianity, and the ill and fatal Example of the reſt of Our Loving Subjects, who have been Soberly Educated, and whoſe Inclinations would lead them to the Exerciſe of Piety and Virtue, did they not daily find ſuch frequent and repeated Inſtances of Diſſolute Living, Prophaneneſs and Impiety, which has in a great Meaſure been occaſioned by the Neglect of the Ma-

Magistrates not putting in Execution those good Laws which have been made for Suppressing and Punishing thereof, and by the ill example of many in Authority, to the great Dishonour of God and Reproach of Our Religion: Wherefore and for that We cannot expect Increase or Continuance of the Blessings We and Our Subjects Enjoy, without Providing Remedies to Prevent the like evils for the future, We think Our Selves Bound by the Duty We owe to God, and the Care we have of the People Committed to Our Charge, to Proceed in taking Effectual Course that Religion, Piety and Good Manners, may, according to Our Hearty Desire, Flourish, and Increase under Our Administration and Government; and being thereunto moved by the Pious Address of the Commons in Parliament Assembled, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Immorality and Prophaneness in all Persons, from the Highest to the Lowest Degree within this Our Realm, and particularly in such who are Imployed near Our Royal Person; and that for the greater Incouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Men of Piety and Virtue, by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do expect that all Persons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will to their utmost Contribute to the Discountenancing Men of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being Reduced to Shame and Contempt, may be enforced the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices, that the Displeasure of God Men towards them, may Supply what the Laws (it may be) cannot wholly Prevent. And for the more Effectual Reforming these Men, who are a Discredit to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges,

Mayors,

Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and other Our Subjects, whom it may concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Prophane Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Prophanation of the Lords Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our Highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual Proceedings herein, We do hereby Direct and Command Our Judges of Assizes and Justices of Peace, to give strict Charges at the respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the kinds afore said, and also of all persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in Putting the said Laws in Execution, and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, cause this Our Proclamation to be publickly Read in open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And we do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditories to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue Practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners and others, who are Imployed in Our Service, either by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to Avoid all Prophaneness, Debauchery and other Immoralities, and that by the Piety and Virtue of their

own

own Lives and Conversations they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Authority, and likewise take Care and Inspect the Behaviour and Manners of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid.

Given at Our Court at *Kensington* the Ninth Day of *December*, 1699. In the Eleventh Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

Anno

Anno Sexto & Septimo

GULIELMI III. REGIS.

An Act for the more Effectual Suppreſſing Prophane Curſing and Swearing.

Hereas it is found by Experience, that an Act of Parliament made in the One and twentieth Year of the Reign of King *James* the Firſt, Intituled, *An Act to Prevent and Reform Prophane Swearing and Curſing*, hath proved Ineffectual to the Suppreſſing of thoſe deteſtable Sins, by reaſon of ſome Deficiencies in the ſaid Act: Be it therefore Enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this preſent Parliament Aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That if any perſon or perſons ſhall (after the Four and twentieth Day of *June*, in the Year of our Lord, One thouſand ſix hundred ninety five) Prophanely Swear or Curſe in the preſence or hearing of any Juſtice of Peace of the County, Riding or Diviſion, or of the Mayor, or other Head Officer or Juſtice of Peace for any Ci-

ty or Town Corporate, where ſuch Offence is or ſhall be committed, or that ſhall be thereof Convicted by Oath of One Witneſs, or by the Confeſſion of the Party Offending, before any Juſtice of Peace of the County, or Mayor, or Bayliff, or other Chief Officer, or Juſtice of the Peace of ſuch City or Town Corporate, where the ſaid Offence ſhall be committed, That then, for every ſuch Offence, the Party ſo Offending, ſhall Forfeit and Pay to the Uſe of the Poor of the Pariſh, where ſuch Offence or Offences ſhall be committed, the reſpective Sums herein after mentioned (that is to ſay;) Every Servant, Day-Labourer, Common Soldier and Common Seaman, One Shilling, and every other perſon, Two Shillings; And in caſe any of the perſons aforeſaid, ſhall after Conviction Offend a Second time, ſuch perſon ſhall Forfeit and Pay double; And if a Third time, treble the Sum reſpectively by him or her to be paid for the Firſt Offence.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That upon Neglect or Refuſal of Payment of the ſaid Forfeiture, any Juſtice of Peace, of the County, Riding or Diviſion, or Mayor, or other Head Officer, or Juſtice of Peace of any City, or Town Corporate, where the ſaid Offences ſhall be committed, ſhall and are hereby Authorized and Required to Direct and Send his Warrant to the Conſtable, Tythingman, Churchwarden or Overſeer of the Poor of the Pariſh where the Offence ſhall be committed, or where the Offender ſhall Inhabit, thereby commanding them, or ſome one or more of them, to Levy by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods of the Offender, the Sum ſo Forfeited, for the Uſe of the Poor of the Pariſh,

as

as aforeſaid; And in caſe no ſuch Diſtreſs can be had, then every ſuch Offender, being above the Age of Sixteen Years, ſhall, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the ſaid Juſtice of Peace or other Officer, as aforeſaid, be publickly ſet in the Stocks for the ſpace of One Hour for every ſingle Offence, and for any Number of Offences, whereof he ſhall be Convicted at one and the ſame time, then Two Hours; And if the Party Offending be under the Age of Sixteen Years, and ſhall not forthwith Pay the ſaid Forfeitures, then he or ſhe ſhall, by Warrant, as aforeſaid, be Whipped by the Conſtable, or by the Parent, Guardian or Maſter of ſuch Offender in the preſence of the Conſtable.

☞ And be it further Enacted, That if any Juſtice of the Peace, or Chief Magiſtrate, ſhall wilfully and wittingly omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, he ſhall Forfeit the ſum of Five Pounds, the one Moiety to the Uſe of the Informer, to be Recovered by Action, Suit, Bill, or Plaint, in any of His Majeſties Courts at *Weſtminſter*, wherein no Eſſoign, Protection or Wager of Law ſhall be Allowed, nor any more than one Imparlance.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That if any Action or Suit ſhall be Commenced or Brought againſt any Juſtice of Peace, Conſtable or other Officer, or Perſon whatſoever, for doing or cauſing to be done any thing in purſuance of this Act, concerning the ſaid Offences, the Defendant, in ſuch Action, may Plead the General Iſſue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence; And if upon ſuch Action Verdict be given for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff become Nonſuit, or Diſcontinue his Action, then the Defendant ſhall have Treble Coſts.

Pro-

Provided always, and it is hereby Enacted, That no Perſon ſhall be Proſecuted or Troubled for any Offence againſt this Statute, unleſs the ſame be Proved or Proſecuted within Ten Days next after the Offence committed.

☞ And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That this Act ſhall be publickly Read Four ſeveral times in the Year in all Pariſh Churches, and all Publick Chapels, by the Parſon, Vicar or Curate of the reſpective Pariſhes or Chapels, immediately after Morning Prayer, on Four ſeveral Sundays (that is to ſay) the Sunday next after the Four and twentieth Day of *June*, the Nine and twentieth Day of *September*, the Five and twentieth Day of *December*, and the Five and twentieth Day of *March*, under the Pain of Twenty Shillings for every ſuch Omiſſion or Neglect.

☞ And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Juſtice of Peace, Mayor or other Head Officer ſhall Regiſter in a Book, to be kept for that Purpoſe, all the Convictions made before him upon this Act, and the time of making thereof, and for what Offence, and ſhall Certifie the ſame to the next General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for the ſaid County or Place where the Offences are committed, to be there kept upon Record by the reſpective Clerks of the Peace, to be ſeen without Fee or Reward.

The Lord Biſhop of *London*'s Circular Letter to the Clergy of his Dioceſs, for their ſtrictly obſerving to read, in their reſpective Churches, His Majeſty's *Proclamations* and the *Acts of Parliament* againſt *Prophaneneſs* and *Debauchery*, for the Effecting a *thorow Reformation of Manners.*

Good Brother,

HAving been Informed from ſeveral Hands, That His Majeſty's Injunctions of February *the* 13*th*, 16$\frac{89}{90}$. *have not been obſerved of late in ſuch manner, at leaſt, as is enjoyned; I thought it my Duty to admoniſh you of this Neglect: And the rather at this time, becauſe His Majeſty has declared, in* His Speech to Both Houſes of Parliament, *That, now he has Leiſure to be with us, One of His Chief Cares ſhall be, to ſuppreſs* Prophaneneſs *and* Immorality. '*And would it not be a ſhameful Reproach* '*to us, a great part of whoſe Buſineſs it ought to be con-* '*tinually to Watch againſt theſe Sins, to be found tardy in* '*thoſe Opportunities which the Laws have given us to warn* '*People of their wicked Courſes? You are to take Notice likewiſe, That, ſince His Majeſty's Injunctions, there is another Act come out for the more effectual Suppreſſing* Prophane Curſing and Swearing, 6. & 7. Will. III. cap. 11. *to be Read likewiſe.*

I could wiſh, with all my Heart, that the late Silence of thoſe Acts and Proclamations, contained in theſe Injunctions, proceeded from ſo thorow a Reformation in Manners, that there were no more need to mention them.

SIR,

Your moſt Aſſured Friend
and Brother,
H. London.

The *Oath* of a Juſtice of the Peace.

THAT in the County of —— in all Articles of the King's Commiſſion to him directed, he ſhall do legal Right to the Poor, and to the Rich, after his Cunning, Wit, and Power, and after the Laws and Cuſtoms of the Realm, and the Statutes thereof made, &c.

The *Commiſſion* of a Juſtice of the Peace.

THE *Commiſſion* ſets forth, *That he is to Conſerve the Peace in the County of — and to keep, as well as cauſe to be kept, all Ordinances and Statutes made for the Good of the Peace, and the Conſervation thereof, and for the Quiet, Rule and Government of His Majeſty's People, and in all and every the Articles thereof, according to the Force, Form, and Effect thereof, 'to Chaſtiſe and Puniſh all Perſons in the 'ſaid County offending againſt the Form of theſe 'Ordinances and Statutes, or any of them in the 'County aforeſaid, as according to the Form of 'thoſe Ordinances and Statutes ſhall be fit to be 'done; and to enquire of all Conſtables and other 'Officers whatſoever, who in the Execution of their 'Office ſhall be careleſs, remiſs, or negligent, in 'the County aforeſaid. And of all other things 'whatſoever, by whomſoever, and howſoever done 'or perpetrated in the ſaid County*, &c.

The

The *Oath* of a Conſtable, ſo far as it relates to his Apprehending *Night-Walkers*, and *idle Perſons*, and his Preſenting Offences contrary to the Statutes made againſt unlawful *Gaming*, *Tipling*, and *Drunkenneſs*, and for the Suppreſſing of them.

THE *Oath* ſets forth, *That he is to uſe his Endeavour that Night-Walkers be apprehended. To ſee that the Statutes made for Puniſhing Vagabonds, and ſuch idle Perſons, coming within his Bounds and Limits, be duly put in Execution. To have a watchful Eye to ſuch Perſons as ſhall maintain or keep any Common Houſe or Place where any unlawful Game is or ſhall be uſed; as alſo, to ſuch as ſhall frequent or uſe ſuch Places, or ſhall uſe or exerciſe any unlawful Games there or elſewhere, contrary to the Statutes. To preſent at the Aſſizes, Seſſions of the Peace, or Leet, all and every the Offences done contrary to the Statutes made to reſtrain the inordinate Haunting and Tipling in Inns, Ale-Houſes, and other Victualling-Houſes, and for Repreſſing of Drunkenneſs; and that he is well and duly, according to his Knowledge, Power, and Ability, to do and execute all other things belonging to a Conſtable's Office.*

Dalt. c. 7. 7 Jac. c. 4. 39 Eliz. c. 4. 43 Eliz. c. 2. 4 Hen. 7. c. 12. 39 Eliz. c. 4. 1 Jac. c. 7. 33 Hen. 8. cap. 9. 16 Car. 2. cap. 7. 2, 3. P. & M. cap. 9. 4 Jac. c. 5. 21 Jac. c. 7. 7 Jac. c. 10. 21 Jac. c. 7. 1 Jac. c. 9. 21 Jac. c. 7. 1 Car. c. 4. 4 Jac. c. 5.

Upon this part of the Conſtables Oath that is recited, 'tis an obvious Obſervation, That tho' it expreſly mentions only ſome particular *Statutes* againſt *Prophaneneſs* and *Vice*, that Conſtables are to be careful that they be put in Execution, other *Acts* having been made againſt Offences of this kind ſince the *Oath* was appointed; as particularly againſt *prophane Swearing* and *Curſing*, *&c.* which were not formerly ſo common as in this degenerate Age, yet Conſtables are equally concerned to endeavour to ſee them executed: The *Oath* telling them in general terms, *That they are well and truly, according to their Knowledge, Power and Ability, to do and execute all other things* (beſides what was before ſpecified) *belonging to a Conſtables Office.*

Now, that Conſtables may the better know their *Power*, and how to execute their *Office* with the greateſt Effect, for the Suppreſſing of *Prophaneneſs* and *Debauchery*, here is added the Judgment of ſome great and eminent Lawyers in ſome important Caſes relating to a Conſtable's Office in the Execution of the Laws againſt *Prophaneneſs* and *Vice*.

A Conſtable may ſtop any Perſons that he ſhall find driving of Carts, Horſes, Cattle, *&c.* on the *Lord's-Day*, and carry them before a Juſtice of Peace, to convict them of Offending againſt the *Statute* 29 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7. without any Warrant from a Juſtice of Peace.

He may do the like to ſuch as he ſhall find at any Sports or Paſtimes on that Day, contrary to 1 *Car.* 1.

If he find any Tipling in Ale-Houſes, *&c.* contrary to 21 *Jac.* 1. *cap.* 7. he may carry them before a Juſtice of Peace, to convict them, that the Penalty

Penalty may be levied according to that *Statute*, and the *Statute* 1 *Jac.* 1.

If he find any Shop-keepers, or other Perſons, Selling or expoſing to Sale their Wares on the *Lord's-Day*, he may carry them before a Juſtice of Peace, to convict them upon the *Statute* of 1 *Jac.* 1. *cap.* 22.

He may take any that he ſhall find Drunk, or Blaſpheming, prophanely Swearing or Curſing, contrary to the *Acts of Parliament*, 7 *Jac. cap.* 5. 6, 7 *Guliel. cap.* 11. & 9 & 10 *Guliel.* 3. and carry them before ſome Juſtice of Peace, to convict them. If he find any of theſe actually offending in ſuch Matters as afore-ſaid, he may, by Virtue of his Office, without a Warrant from a Juſtice, take them to a Juſtice of the Peace.

A Conſtable Headborough, *&c.* hath not Power to do this all over the County or City, but is confined to his own Juriſdiction, and can't go out of his Conſtablewick, Borough, *&c.* to take any Perſon offending as above, unleſs it be in purſuit of one that he apprehends offending within his Juriſdiction, and he eſcapes and runs from him out of his Conſtablewick; but when he hath apprehended any ſuch Offender, he may carry him to the next Juſtice of Peace.

In *London*, by the Cuſtom of the City, a Conſtable is authorized to execute his Office in any Ward or Pariſh within the City, and ſo it may be in other Cities, *&c.* by Cuſtom; but otherwiſe, he is confined to his Precinct.

It appears from hence, that Conſtables have a great Power for the Suppreſſing of *Prophaneneſs* and *Debauchery*, and that if they would conſcientiouſly exerciſe

exerciſe it, as divers of them in ſome parts of the Kingdom have of late done with great Succeſs, and private Perſons would more generally give Informations againſt prophane and vicious Men, we might in a very little time ſee a *Reformation of Manners*, after the great Progreſs it hath already made, much farther advanced And one would be apt to think, that had not made due Obſervations upon the Degeneracy of the *Engliſh* Nation, and particularly of the little Sence the generality of Men in Offices ſeem to have of the Obligation of their Oaths, (which ſhould, methinks, give Occaſion to Legiſlators either to leſſen the Number, or alter the Form of Oaths, or at leaſt to take care that they were better diſcharged) that the Conſideration of the Sacredneſs of an *Oath*, with the Deſign of their *Offices*, voluntarily taken upon them, for the Service of their Country, might engage the Generality at leaſt of them, to a conſcientious diſcharge of their Duty; but however, it may be hoped, that it will have ſome Influence upon ſuch as make any pretence to Religion, or common Honeſty, or have but a value for their Reputation with Men that have a concern for the Honour of God, or the Welfare of their Country, now their *Oaths*, the *Laws*, and *good Examples*, are ſet before them; which may likewiſe be ſaid in Relation to Subordinate Magiſtrates that are under the ſame Obligations from their Oaths and their Religion to execute faithfully their Offices.

An Abſtract of the Penal-Laws
AGAINST
Prophaneneſs and Immorality,

Commanded to be put in Speedy and Vigorous Execution, by His Majeſty's Gracious and Pious Proclamations, purſuant to the Humble Addreſſes of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.

OFFENCES.	*Laws* and *Statutes.*	*PENALTIES.*
Prophanation of the Lord's-Day.		
ALL Laws in force concerning the Obſervation of the Lord's-Day, ſhall be put in Execution: This Day is by every one to be Sanctified and kept Holy; and all Perſons muſt be careful herein to exerciſe themſelves in the Duties of Piety and true Religion, Publickly and Privately; and every one on this Day (not having a reaſonable Excuſe) muſt diligently reſort to ſome Publick place, where the Service of God is exerciſed, or muſt be preſent at ſome other Place, (allowed of by Law) in the Practice of ſome Religious Duty, either of Prayer, Preaching, Reading, or Expounding of the Scriptures, or Conference upon the ſame.	29 *Car.* 2. *Cap.* 7. 1 *W.* & *M.* *Cap.* 18. 1 *Eliz.* *c.* 2. 3 *Jac.* *c.* 4.	NOTE, That His Majeſty's Proteſtant Subjects diſſenting from the Church of *England*, and qualified according to the late Statute of Indulgence, are exempted from the Penalties of the Statutes, 3 *Jac.* 1 *Eliz.* 23. *Eliz.* 29. *Eliz.* *and ſome other Statutes.* But this Indulgence extends not to ſuch prophane Perſons who no where attend on the Publick Worſhip of God Eſtabliſht, or allow'd by Law; nor to any that in Preaching or Writing deny the Trinity.

OFFENCES.	Laws and Statutes.	PENALTIES.
Such as Repair not to Church, *&c.* on *Sundays* and *Holidays*, One Witness,	1 *Eliz. c.* 2.	Twelve Pence for every Default, to be levied by Distress; and for want of Distress, to be committed to some Prison, until the same be paid. *Vid.* 14, 15. §.
Absenting for a Month,	23 *Eliz. cap.* 1.	Twenty Pounds *per* Month, or forfeiture of Two parts in Three of their Estates.
If a Twelve-month or more,	3 *Jac. c.* 4.	
If any come not to the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper once a Year,		Their Names and Sirnames to be Presented: Forty Shillings Reward to such as present them.
None shall speak or do any thing in Contempt of the most Holy Sacrament.	1 *Ed.* 6. *c.* 1.	By Oath of Two Lawful Witnesses, by Three Justices, *Quorum im.* to be Bound over and Prosecuted in Sessions.
Whosoever shall disturb the Church or Congregation permitted, or misuse the Teacher,	1 *W.* & *M. cap.* 18. 1 *M. cap.* 3.	To find Sureties in 50 *l.* or committed till next Quarter-Sessions, and on Conviction to Forfeit 20 *l.*
Proof by Two Witnesses before a Justice of Peace.		
Whosoever shall disturb any Preacher allowed in his open Sermon or Collation, or be procuring or abetting thereunto, or shall Rescue, *&c.* any Offender, *&c.*		To be Committed by any Justice of the County to safe Custody; and within six days the said Committing Justice, with one other Justice, (if the Offender upon Examination shall be found Guilty) shall Commit him to Gaol without Bail, *&c.* for Three Months, and farther to the next Quarter-Sessions, *&c.*
Accusation must be by Two Witnesses, or Confession.		
Such as Meet or Assemble out of their own Parish upon the Lord's-Day, for any Sports or Pastimes whatsoever; or such as shall use any Unlawful Exercise or Pastime in their own Parish upon the Lord's-Day.	1 *Car. c.* 1.	Three Shillings and Four Pence to the Poor, where, *&c.* to be levied by Distress and Sale, restoring the Overplus, *&c.* and for want of Distress, to be sent to the Stocks for Three Hours; but they must be questioned within a Month.

If

OFFENCES.	*Laws* and *Statutes.*	PENALTIES.
If any Carrier, Wagoner, Butcher, &c. with Horſe, Wain, or Cart, or Drover with Cattle, ſhall Travel upon the Lord's-Day by themſelves, or any other for them,	3 *Car. c.* 1.	Twenty Shillings for every Offence, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale, to the Uſe of the Poor.
If any Butcher, or any other for him, ſhall Kill or Sell any Victuals upon the *Sunday*, Two Witneſſes, View, or Confeſſion,	3 *Car. c.* 1.	He ſhall Forfeit Six Shillings and Eight Pence, if queſtioned within Six Months, to be Levied, &c. or may be Sued for in Seſſions, &c.
If any Shoe-Maker ſhall ſhew with intent to Sell any Boots, Shoes, &c. on the *Sunday*,	1 *Jac. c.* 22.	He ſhall Forfeit the Value of every ſuch pair, and alſo Three Shillings and Four Pence for every Pair.
If any Perſon of the Age of 14, ſhall on the Lord's-Day, or any part thereof, do any Worldly Labour, Buſineſs, or Work, &c. except Works of Neceſſity and Charity,	29 *Car.* 2. *Cap.* 7.	He ſhall Forfeit Five Shillings for every Offence.
If any Perſon ſhall Cry, Shew forth, or put to Sale, any Wares, Fruit, Goods, &c. except Milk only, before the Hours of Nine in the Morning, & after four in the Afternoon,	29 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7.	He ſhall Forfeit the ſaid Wares, Fruit, Goods, &c. to the Uſe of the Poor.
No Drover, Horſe-Courſer, Wagoner, Butcher, Higler, or any of their Servants, ſhall Travel, or come to their Inns, on the Lord's-Day.	29 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7.	The Forfeiture is Twenty Shillings for every Offence.
No Perſon ſhall uſe to Travel upon the Lord's-Day with any Boat, Wherry, &c. except allow'd by one Juſtice of Peace ſo to do,	29 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7.	The Forfeiture is Five Shillings for every Offence. The Conviction upon the Statute muſt be before any Juſtice of the County, &c. who ſhall give Warrant to the Conſtables, &c. to Seize the Goods ſhewed, &c. and to Levy the Forfeitures by Diſtreſs, &c.
By View, Confeſſion, or one Witneſs.		

OFFENCES.	Laws and Statutes.	PENALTIES.
This Act extends not to dreſſing of Meat in Cooks-Shops, Inns, or Victualling Houſes, for ſuch as otherwiſe cannot be provided; nor to Hackney Coaches that are Licenſed.		and for want of Diſtreſs, to put the Offender in the Stocks for Two Hours: The Juſtices, &c. may reward the Informer out of the Forfeitures, not exceeding the Third part. Every Perſon muſt be Impeached upon this Act within Ten Days after the Offence.
Drunkenneſs. A Crime, from which the Ancient *Britains* were free, therefore the Laws againſt it are new.	*Co.* 3 *Inſtit. fol.* 200, 201.	The Offender for the firſt to pay Five Shillings to the Church-Wardens, where, &c. within one Week after Conviction, or elſe to be Levied by Warrant, &c. by Diſtreſs and Sale; and for want of Diſtreſs, to ſit in the Stocks ſix Hours.
If any be Convicted for being Drunk, by One Witneſs, View, or Confeſſion, and the Party confeſſing a good Witneſs againſt another Offending at the ſame time.	4 *Jac. c.* 5. 21 *Jac. c.* 7.	
If any Ale Houſe-Keeper be Convicted of Drunkenneſs, he is diſabled for Three Years to keep any Ale-Houſe.	7 *Jac. c.* 10. 21 *Jac. c.* 7.	For the ſecond Offence, muſt be Bound in Ten Pounds, with Two Sureties to the good Behaviour; and for want of Sureties, to be ſent to Gaol.
This Conviction of Drunkenneſs muſt be within Six Months after the Offence committed.		If the Conſtable levy not the Forfeitures, he Forfeits Ten Shillings to the Poor, *ut ſupra.*
Inn-Keepers, Ale-Houſe-Keepers, or Victuallers, that ſuffer any of the ſame Pariſh to continue Tipling in their Houſes,	1 *Jac. c.* 9. 21 *Jac. c.* 7.	Ten Shillings to be Levied by Diſtreſs, and Sale after ſix days; and for want of Diſtreſs, to be committed till Payment, and Diſabled for 3 Years from keeping any Ale-Houſe, &c.
One Witneſs, View, or Confeſſion, and the Party confeſſing a good Witneſs againſt another Offending at the ſame time.		If the Conſtable or Church-Warden do not Levy the Penalty, or ſhall not certifie the want of Diſtreſs within Twenty Days, he Forfeits Forty Shillings, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale, *ut ſupra.*

If

OFFENCES.	*Laws* and *Statutes.*	PENALTIES.
If any Inn-Keeper, Ale-House-Keeper, Victualler, or Taverner, suffer any Person (whereſoever his Habitation be) to continue Tipling in his Houſe,	1 *Jac. cap.* 9. 21 *Jac.* C. 7. 1 *Car. cap.* 4.	Ten Shillings to be Levied by Diſtreſs, and for want of Satisfaction, in ſix days to be ſold, reſtoring the Overplus; and for want of Diſtreſs, to be committed till Payment.
Two Witneſſes, or View.		
Townſmen or others which ſhall remain Tipling in any Inn, Ale-Houſe, or Victualling-Houſe, One Witneſs, View, or Confeſſion, *ut ſupra.*	4 *Jac. cap.* 5. 21 *Jac.* c. 7.	Three Shillings and Four Pence, to be Levied by Diſtreſs, after one Weeks Neglect of Payment; or to ſit in the Stocks four Hours.
Conſtables ſhall be charged on their Oaths to preſent Offences committed againſt theſe *Acts.*	1 *Car. cap.* 4. 21 *Jac.* c. 7. *Dalt. cap.* 7.	The Conſtable for his Neglect Forfeits Ten Shillings, *ut ſupra.*
Theſe Statutes do Prohibit all Quaffing, and Drinking of Healths, ſuch Houſes being ſolely appointed for the Accommodation of Travellers, and for the Relief of the Poor.		Every ſuch Taverner, which ſhall ſuffer any Perſon whatſoever to Tiple in his Houſe, contrary to the ſaid Statutes, ſhall be adjudged within the Statute, 1 *Jac. Cap.* 9.

Swearing & Curſing.

If any Perſon ſhall Prophanely Swear or Curſe in the Hearing of a Juſtice of Peace, Mayor, &c. or be Convicted of ſuch Swearing, by One Witneſs, or Confeſſion of the Party,	21 *Jac.* c. 20 3 *Car.* c. 4. 17 *Car.* c. 4. 6, 7 *Guliel. Cap.* 11.	He ſhall forfeit for every ſuch Offence, to the Uſe of the Poor, the reſpective Sums following; every Servant, Day-Labourer, common Soldier, and common Seaman, One Shilling; every other Perſon, Two Shillings: If any Perſon, after Conviction, ſhall offend a Second time, ſuch Perſon ſhall pay Double; and if a Third time, Trebble the Sum reſpectively to be paid for the firſt Offence. Every Juſtice, Head-Officer, &c. may Command the Conſtables, &c. to Levy the ſame by Diſtreſs: And for want of Diſtreſs, the Offender being above the Age of Sixteen Years, ſhall be ſet in the Stocks, for every ſingle Offence, one Hour; for any Number, at one and the ſame time, two Hours: If under Sixteen Years old, and ſhall not pay the ſaid Twelve pence, he ſhall be whipp'd by the Conſtable, by Warrant of the Juſtice,
Every Offence againſt this Act muſt be proved within Ten Days after the Offence Committed.		
Every Juſtice ſhall Regiſter, &c. and certifie to the next		Quarter-

OFFENCES.	Laws and Statutes.	PENALTIES.
Quarter-Seſſions of Peace all Convictions made before him upon this Act, and the time of making thereof, and for what Offence.		or by the Parent, Guardian, or Maſter, in the Preſence of the Conſtable. Every Juſtice, or chief Magiſtrate, wilfully omitting the Performing of his Duty, ſhall forfeit Five Pounds, to be recovered by Action. The Act of the Sixth and Seventh of King WILLIAM to be Read four times in the Year, in all Churches and Chappels, under the pain of Twenty Shillings for Neglect thereof. General Iſſue, &c. Treble Coſts, &c.
None ſhall in any Stage-Play, Shew, May-game, Interlude, or Pageant, Jeſtingly or Prophanely ſpeak or uſe the Holy Name of God, Chriſt Jeſus, the Holy Ghoſt, or Trinity.	3 *Jac.* C. 21.	**On pain of Ten Pounds, to be divided between the King and the Proſecutor, to be recovered by Action, &c.**
Blaſphemy.		
If any Perſon, having been Educated in, or at any time having made Profeſſion of the Chriſtian Religion, within this Realm, ſhall, by Writing, Printing, Teaching, or adviſed Speaking, deny any one of the Perſons in the Holy Trinity to be God, or ſhall aſſert or maintain there are more Gods than One, or ſhall deny the Chriſtian Religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Teſtament to be of Divine Authority, and ſhall upon Indictment or Information in any of His Majeſty's Courts at *Weſtminſter*, or at the Aſſizes, be thereof Lawfully Convicted by the Oath of Two or more credible Witneſſes,	9 & 10. *Gulielm.* 3.	For the firſt Offence, ſhall be adjudged incapable, and diſabled in Law to all Intents and Purpoſes, to have or injoy any Office or Imployment Eccleſiaſtical, Civil, or Military, or any Part in them, or any Profit or Advantage appertaining to them; and if at the Time of Conviction Poſſeſt, &c. ſuch Office, Place, or Imployment, ſhall be void. On the ſecond Conviction, ſhall be diſabled to Sue, Proſecute, Plead, or uſe any Action or Information in any Court of Law or Equity; or to be a Guardian, or an Executor, or Adminiſtrator, or capable of any Legacy, or Deed of Gift, or of any Office, Civil or Military, or Benefice Eccleſiaſtical; and ſhall ſuffer three Years Impriſonment, without Bail, from the Time of the Conviction. The Information to a Juſtice of Peace, to be within four Days for Words, and the Proſecution within three Months after. To be diſcharged of the Penalties incurr'd by the firſt Conviction, on Renunciation, in the ſame Court where Convicted, within four Months after the Conviction.
Note. This Statute puniſhes not the Error, but the Impudence of the Offender.		

Lewd

OFFENCES.	Laws and Statutes.	PENALTIES.
Leud and Diſorderly Practices.		
Keeping of Baudy-Houſes, &c. is againſt the Law of God, on which our Common Law in this Caſe is grounded: Therefore the Keepers of Houſes of Baudry and Incontinence,	1 *Vent.* 53. Co. 3. *Inſtit. Cap.* 98. 1 *Hen.* 7. *fol.* 6.	Are to be Puniſhed, being a Common Nuſance, by Indictment at Common Law, by Fine and Impriſonment.
Reſorters and Frequenters of Baudy-Houſes,		To be Bound with Sureties to the good Behaviour.
The *Ordinary* may puniſh *Incontinency* in their *Clergy* by Impriſonment, at their diſcretion.	1 *Hen.* 7. *Cap.* 4.	
Adultery, &c. and all Acts of Baudry, are Breaches of the Peace,	5 *Co.* 1 p^{t}. 27 b.	For which an Indictment will lie.
If a Conſtable, &c. has Notice that a Woman is in Adultery, &c. with a Man, or that a Man or Woman of evil Fame is gone to a ſuſpected Houſe,	*Cook* 3 *Inſt. Dal. f.* 224.	He may take Help with him, and if he find them ſo, he may carry them to Priſon, or to a Juſtice, to be Bound over and Proſecuted.
One that hath leud Women found in his Houſe, common Whore-Maſters, or Whores,		To find ſufficient Sureties for the Good Behaviour.
Strangers, or others, that are ſuſpicious, that walk by Night, eſpecially if they haunt leud Houſes, or keep ill Company, or commit Outrages,	7 *Jac. cap.* 4. 39 *Eliz. c.* 4. 43 *Eliz. c.* 2. 4 *Hen.* 7. *Cap.* 12.	On pain of being put out of *Commiſſion*, and other Puniſhment according to demerits.
Juſtices muſt do their Duty,		
Idlers that refuſe to Work, and Diſorderly Perſons,	39 *Eliz. c.* 4.	To be Committed to the Houſe of Correction.
Wandring Rogues, &c.	1 *Jac. cap.* 7.	To be Whipp'd, and ſent to the Place of Birth; or if that not known, where laſt dwelt for one Year, or laſt paſſed.
If the Conſtable puniſh them not,		He Forfeits Ten Shillings, to be Levied by a Warrant from Two Juſtices. Such

OFFENCES.	Laws and Statutes.	PENALTIES.
Such as ſhall not Apprehend Rogues, &c. being at their Doors, Two Witneſſes, or Confeſſion,	1 *Jac. c.* 7.	Ten Shillings to be Levied, *ut ſupra.*
Every Conſtable, &c. who does not puniſh ſuch as are brought to him,	39 *Eliz. c.* 4.	Twenty Shillings to be Levied, *ut ſupra.*
Such as diſturb the Puniſhment of Rogues, &c.	1 *Jac. C.* 7.	Five Pounds to be Levied by Diſtreſs, and Bound to the Good Behaviour by Two Juſtices, *Quorum un.*
Officers remiſs in Puniſhing of Rogues, &c.		Ten Shillings to be Levied by Diſtreſs and Sale, *ut ſupra.*
Such as run away, and leave their Charge upon the Pariſh,	7 *Jac. C.* 4.	To be Puniſhed as Rogues, &c.
Such as threaten to run away, Two Witneſſes,		To be ſent to the Houſe of Correction, or give Security to diſcharge the Pariſh.
If any Woman ſhall have a Baſtard Child which may be chargeable to the Pariſh,		Houſe of Correction for One Year, to be ſent by Two Juſtices, and Bound not to Offend ſo again.
Gaming.		
Keepers of Play-Houſes, & Unlawful Games, Upon View,	33 *Hen.* 8. *Cap.* 9.	Forty Shillings, and Impriſonment until he become Bound by Recognizance to keep no more.
Officers ſhall ſearch every Month,		Forty Shillings.
Such as Play in ſuch Houſes, Upon View,		Impriſonment until he be bound to play no more, and to pay 6*s.* 8*d.* to be recovered in *Quarter-Seſſions.*
Such Perſons deſcribed in the Act as out of *Chriſtmaſs*, ſhall play at Unlawful Games any where within the Year,	16 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7.	Impriſonment, and bound to the King to play no more, Twenty Shillings by Indictment in *Quarter-Seſſions.*
Fraud in Play or Betting,	2, 3 *P. & M. Cap.* 9.	Forfeit the Treble Value.
All Licenſes to keep Houſes or Places of Unlawful Games, ſhall be void.		Treble Coſts.

Blank

Blank Warrants *in Caſes of* Prophane Swearing *and* Curſing, Drunkenneſs, *and* Prophanation *of the* Lords-Day.

London ſſ. To the Conſtables, Church-Wardens, and Overſeers of the Poor of the Pariſh of St. *Michael Cornhill*, and to every of them.

WHereas A--- B--- *Gent. living*, &c. *being above the Age of Sixteen Years, ſtandeth Convicted before Me of Prophane Swearing* Five *ſeveral times within your Pariſh, upon the* Tenth *Day of* July *inſtant, this being the* Second *time of his Conviction. Theſe are therefore in His Majeſty's Name, to Charge and Command you, and every of you, preſently, upon Sight hereof, to Demand of the ſaid* A--- B--- *the Sum of* Twenty Shillings, *for the Uſe of the Poor of your ſaid Pariſh, according to the Form of the Statute in that Caſe made and provided. And if he ſhall refuſe or neglect to pay the ſaid Sum, that then you preſently Levy the ſame by Diſtreſs and Sale of his Goods, rendring to him the Overplus. And in Defect of ſuch Diſtreſs, that he be ſet publickly in the Stocks by the ſpace of* Two *whole Hours, and this ſhall be your ſufficient Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal this day of in the* Tenth *Year of the Reign of King* William *the Third.* Anno Dom. 169

London ſſ. To the Conſtables and Church-Wardens of St. *A*--- *B*--- and to every of them.

WHereas A— B— *of* Crane-Court *in* King-Street, *at the Sign of the* Kings-Arms, *Victualler, in your Pariſh, hath been Lawfully Convicted before Me, that he, the* Twentieth Day of June inſtant, *being the* Lord's-Day, *did permit divers* (*Perſons or*) *Companies to* Tiple *in his Houſe, contrary to the Statutes in that Caſe made and provided: Theſe are therefore, in His Majeſty's Name, to Authorize and Require you forthwith to* Levy the Sum of Ten Shillings of the ſaid *A*— *B*— by Diſtreſs and Sale of his Goods, (if they be not redeemed within Six days after ſuch Diſtreſs) *for the Uſe of the Poor of your Pariſh, rendring to him the Overplus: And in Default of Diſtreſs, or Inability of the Offender to pay the ſaid Forfeitures, that you ſee that he be Committed to the Common Gaol, there to remain until Payment thereof be truly made. And of the due Execution hereof you are to give an Account when it ſhall be demanded of you. And hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal this day of in the Year of the Reign of King* William. Anno Dom. 169

London

London ſſ. To the Conſtables and Church-Wardens of the Pariſh of St. *All-hallows Barkin*, and to every of them.

WHereas A— B— *in* D---Lane, *near* E---Street, *at the Sign of the* Red-Lion, *a* Grocer, *in your Pariſh, hath been Lawfully Convicted before me, that he, the* Twentieth Day *of* June *inſtant, being the* Lord's-Day, *did, in your Pariſh, by himſelf (or Servants) Exerciſe his Trade and ordinary Calling, without any lawful Cauſe, contrary to the Statutes in that Caſe made and provided. Theſe are therefore, in His Majeſty's Name, to Authorize and Require you forthwith to* Levy the Sum of Five Shillings, of the ſaid *A--- B---* by Diſtreſs and Sale of his Goods, *for the Uſe of the Poor of your ſaid Pariſh, rendring to him the Overplus: And in Default of Diſtreſs, or Inability of the Offender to pay the ſaid Forfeitures, that you ſee that he be ſet publickly in the Stocks by the ſpace of Two Hours. And of the due Execution hereof you are to give an Account when it ſhall be demanded. And hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal this* Twenty Seventh Day of July, *in the* Tenth *Year of the Reign of King* William *the Third*, Anno Dom. 169

London ſſ. To the Conſtables, Headboroughs, and Tithing-Men of the Pariſh of St. *A*— *B*— and to every of them.

WHereas J— G— *Eſq;* *was this Day Lawfully Convicted before Me of the Offence of* Drunkenneſs, *by him Committed on the Day of in the ſaid Pariſh, contrary to the Statute in that Caſe made and provided. Theſe are therefore, in His Majeſty's Name, to Charge and Command you, that you do Require the ſaid* J— G— *to pay for the ſaid Offence, to the Church-Wardens of your ſaid Pariſh, the Sum of* Five Shillings, *within One Week now next enſuing, for the Uſe of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh. And if he ſhall refuſe or neglect to Pay the ſame, that then you Levy the ſame by Diſtreſs and Sale of his Goods, rendring to him the Overplus: And in Defect of ſuch Diſtreſs, that he be ſet publickly in the Stocks, there to remain by the ſpace of* Six Hours. *And of the due Execution hereof you are to give an Account when it ſhall be demanded. Hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal this day of in the* Tenth *Year of the Reign of King* William *the Third over* England, *&c.* Anno Dom.

The

The Form of a *Regiſter of Warrants* iſſued out in Caſes of *Prophaneneſs* and *Debauchery*, containin the Offender's Name, Offence, Place of Abode, the Day of his Conviction, the Name of t Officer to whom the Warrants are delivered, uſeful for the Calling of Conſtables, Churc Wardens, and Overſeers of the Poor, to an Account, at the Seſſions, or otherwiſe, for the Executio of them, and the Application of the Money thereby levied to the Uſe of the Poor.

Delivered	To	A Warrant dated	Againſt	in the Pariſh of	for Levying	for the Offence of	Conviction	Committed upon	in the Pariſh of	how Execute
July 3.	*J. B.* Conſtable.	*July* 2.	*J. T.* Gent. Mercer.	S. *Clement.*	*l. s. d.*	Swearing 2. Curſing 5.	Firſt. Second. Third.	*June* 28.	S. *Clem^nt*	Paid 14 *s.* Goods ſeize or Stocks.
						Drunkenneſs.				
						Prophanation of the Lord's-Day, by permitting Tipling, or Exerciſing his Trade				

Some Prudential Methods *that have been Recommended to those that give* Informations *against* Prophaneneſs *and* Debauchery *in and about the Cities of* London *and* Weſtminſter; *and particularly to the Members of the ſeveral* Religious Societies *that have acted in the buſineſs of Reformation.*

I. TO give no Information where the Matter of Fact is any ways doubtful.

II. Particularly as to *Drunkenneſs* to uſe Caution and Prudence in judging when a Man is *Drunk*. Tho' a Man that cannot ſtand upon his Legs, or that reels or ſtaggers as he goes along the Streets, and is heard to faulter remarkably in his Speech, unleſs in Caſe of ſome known natural Infirmity or Defect, may ordinarily be preſumed to be *Drunk*.

III. As to *Prophane Swearing* and *Curſing*, it may be adviſable, that they remember the Words of the *Oath*, or *Curſe*, that they may be able to repeat them if it be required.

IV. As to *Permitting of Tipling*, which, in Strictneſs of Law, is puniſhable upon any Day, it has been thought adviſable to take Notice only of what is done on the *Lord's-Day*.

V. As to the *Prophanation of the Lord's-Day*, by the Exerciſe of any Trade, or ordinary Calling, to Inform againſt ſuch as they ſee Offending by the *Weighing*, *Meaſuring*, *Bargaining* for, or *Delivery* of Goods, or *Receiving*

Receiving Money for them; as alſo againſt *Bakers* appearing in the Streets with their *Baskets*, or *Barbers* with their *Pot*, *Baſon*, or *Periwig-Box*; *Shoemakers*, *Taylors*, *Hatters*, or other Tradeſmen, carrying out their *Work* and *Ware*; and againſt all kind of *Manual Labour*, except in Caſes of Neceſſity and Mercy.

VI. As to the *Expoſing Goods to Sale on the Lord's-Day*; if it be by thoſe that live in Cellars, not to inform againſt them unleſs they are ſeen to ſell their Goods, becauſe ſuch Perſons have ſome Pretence for keeping open their Cellar Doors, or Windows, for the Benefit of the Light, or Air: But if any *Wares*, *Fruits*, *&c.* be Expoſed without or above ſuch Doors or Windows, or in any Shops with the Windows open, or upon Stalls, whether belonging to the Perſons that own ſuch Goods, or not, and tho' there be nothing ſeen to be ſold, theſe are ſufficient Grounds of Information.

VII. Not to uſe any Artifice to provoke or draw in others to the Breach of the Laws, in the Inſtances afore-mentioned, or any of the like kind, that they may have an Occaſion to inform againſt them.

VIII. That in all their Applications to the *Magiſtrates*, they behave themſelves towards them with Deference and Reſpect.

A Spe-

A Specimen of an Agreement for the Forming of a Society *for* Reformation of Manners *in any City, Town, or Village of the Kingdom, where there are but* Three *or* Four *Pious Perſons that are willing to unite in ſuch a* Society, *by their Subſcribing this or ſome other* Agreement *of this nature, which is earneſtly recommended to thoſe that are piouſly diſpos'd to give their Aſſiſtance in the Work of* Reformation.

WE whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, out of a Senſe of the Duty we owe to Almighty God, in purſuance of His Majeſty's *Proclamation* for the Diſcouragement and Proſecution of *Debauchery* and *Prophaneneſs*, and for the Suppreſſing of them, do agree as followeth.

I. That we meet Weekly at —— under the Penalty of —— for each Default, without a juſt Cauſe, to conſult how we may be moſt ſerviceable in Promoting the Execution of the Laws againſt *Prophaneneſs* and *Debauchery*.

II. That we uſe all proper means to prevail with Men of all Ranks to concur with us in this Deſign, eſpecially ſuch as are under the Obligation of *Oaths* to do ſo; and in order to their acting vigorouſly therein, That we endeavour to perſuade them to form themſelves into *Societies*, at leaſt to have *frequent Meetings* for this purpoſe.

III. That

III. That we encourage and aſſiſt Officers in the Diſcharge of their Duty of Diſcovering *Diſorderly Houſes*, of taking up of Offenders, and carrying them before the Magiſtrates, and moreover endeavour to aſſiſt both Magiſtrates and Officers, by giving Informations our ſelves, as we have Opportunity.

IV. That, for Order ſake, every Member in his turn be Chairman, (unleſs any deſire to be excuſed) for Four ſucceſſive days of Meeting: That as ſoon as four Members are met the Chairman, or in his abſence the next in order upon the Liſt, (that ſhall be made for that purpoſe) ſhall take his Place; and that from that time, to the breaking up of the Meeting, we forbear all Diſcourſe of publick News, or our private Affairs; as alſo all unneceſſary Diſputes upon ſpeculative and controverſial points of Religion.

V. That when any thing is propoſed and ſeconded, the Chairman ſhall put it to the Queſtion, which ſhall be determined by the Majority, and ſuch Determination, till alter'd by a Majority at another Meeting, ſhall generally conclude every Member of this Society, unleſs contrary to the Word of God, the Law of the Land, or any one's Conſcience.

VI. That if upon any Matter in Debate the Voices are equal, the Queſtion ſhall be again propoſed by the Chairman at the ſame Meeting, if more of the Members come in, or otherwiſe at the next, or ſome other Meeting.

VII. That it be part of the Office of the Chairman, to take Notice of the Breach of any of our *Orders*, to enquire of every Member how he hath diſcharged the Buſineſs that was alotted him at the laſt Meeting, and what Difficulties he hath met with, in order to find out proper Remedies: To read over the *Agreement* of this Society once a Month: To read over the minutes of what hath been reſolved upon at the end of every Meeting, and the Liſt of the Members, and to go or ſend to ſuch as have been abſent twice ſucceſſively, without a juſt Excuſe known to ſome Member of the Society; and the next time any ſuch Perſons ſhall be preſent, the Chairman for the time being ſhall put them in mind of the great Importance of the Buſineſs they are engaged in, and of the Obligations they have laid themſelves under, by their Subſcriptions to attend the *Meetings* of this Society.

VIII. That we endeavour to find out proper Perſons to be brought into this Society; and that no Perſon ſhall be propoſed for a Member but when four or more of the Society

are

are preſent; and that none ſhall be admitted into this Society till they have been propoſed at three ſeveral Meetings, and are thought to be Men of Piety and Temper; and that after any Perſon hath been propoſed a ſecond time for a Member, two Perſons ſhall be appointed by the major part of the Society to make enquiry concerning his Life and Converſation.

IX. That in Caſes of Difficulty that ſhall occur we conſult the Learned in the Law, or other proper Perſons, that we by no means go further than the Law will warrant us.

X. That we keep an exact Account of our Proceedings in a Book kept for that purpoſe.

XI. That the Debates and Reſolutions of the Society be kept ſecret; and therefore no Perſon ſhall be admitted to be preſent at any Debate in any Meeting that is not a Member, unleſs upon ſpecial Occaſion, and by Agreement of the Majority preſent.

XII. That we look upon our ſelves as under a peculiar Obligation to pray for the Reformation of the Nation in general, and to implore the Divine Direction and Bleſſing upon this our Undertaking in particular.

See *His Grace the Arch-Biſhop of* Canterbury's *late* Circular Letter, *with the Concurring* Letters *of* all the Biſhops *of that Province, for Perſons frequently* meeting *and* uniting *in the Work of* Reformation, *and of their* Obligation *to give* Informations *to Magiſtrates of the* Breaches *of the* Laws *againſt* Prophaneneſs *and* Immorality, *pag.* 4, 6.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AN *Account of the* Societies for Reformation of Manners *in* England *and* Ireland. *With a Perſuaſive to Perſons of all Ranks to be zealous and diligent in the Execution of the Laws againſt* Prophaneneſs *and* Debauchery, *for the Effecting a* National Reformation. Publiſhed with the Approbation of a conſiderable Number of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Honourable Judges of both Kingdoms.

A Help to a National Reformation, *&c.*

Abſtracts of the Penal-Laws againſt Prophaneneſs and Vice, His Majeſty's Proclamations for Preventing and Puniſhing Immorality and Prophaneneſs, the late Act of Parliament againſt prophane Curſing and Swearing, Blank Warrants, Regiſters, Specimens of an Agreement for the Forming of Societies for Reformation of Manners, Prudential Rules for the giving of Informations, *&c.*

Sold by D. Brown, *without* Temple-Bar; B. Aylmer, *at the* Three Pigeons *in* Cornhill; T. Parkhurſt, *at the* Three-Crowns *in* Cheapſide *near* Mercers-Chappel; J. Robinſon, *at the* Golden-Lion, *and* R. Sympſon, *at the* Harp, *in St.* Paul's-Church-Yard; T. Goodwin, *and* W. Rogers, *in* Fleet-Street; J. Walthoe, *in the* Temple; Iſ. Harriſon, *at* Lincolns-Inn-Gate *in* Chancery-Lane; S. Heyrick, *at* Grays-Inn-Gate *in* Holbourn; J. Fox, *in* Weſtminſter-Hall; *and* J. Downing, *in* Bartholomew-Cloſe *near* Weſt-Smithfield, 1700.

FINIS.